

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 line 19 with the following:

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ)(available on the worldwide web at <http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>); Genebank (available on the worldwide web at the ncbi website at: [http:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Web/Search/Index.html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Web/Search/Index.html)); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) ([http://www available on the worldwide web at: ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db/embl-db.html](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db/embl-db.html)). Other appropriate databases include dbEST ([http://www-available on the worldwide web at: the ncbi website at \[ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbEST/index.html\]\(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbEST/index.html\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/dbEST/index.html)), SwissProt ([http://www-available on the worldwide web at: ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/swisprot_db/swisshome.html](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/swisprot_db/swisshome.html)), PIR ([http://www-available on the worldwide web at: nbrt.georgetown.edu/pir/](http://www.nbrt.georgetown.edu/pir/)) and The Institute for Genome Research ([http://www-available on the worldwide web at: tigr.org/tdb/tdb.html](http://www.tigr.org/tdb/tdb.html)).